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## BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON, R.N.

**THE LIFE OF CLARA BARTON.** By Percy H. Epler. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price, \$2.00.

"Clara Barton's life touches the life of her nation at so many vital points that its record can hardly be less than a chapter in our national and international history," so says her cousin, Wm. E. Barton, in an introduction to Mr. Epler's biography, but we are thankful that the author was not satisfied with this side of her life and that he has placed before us pages that show us the early influences and the austere environment which produced this most notable lady. Of the aristocracy, her parents, neither rich nor poor, gave her an inheritance of high principles and of sensitive conscience. They sought to cultivate in her the spirit of rectitude, rather than a beauty of face and form. They urged upon her the responsibilities of life at a very early age. At eleven years, we find her taking charge of an invalid brother, whose bedside she left for one single afternoon in two years. We read of her being denied the pleasure of learning to dance; and the list of advanced studies which she was expected to master, at an age when other little girls were playing with dolls, is startling. At fifteen she started out to teach and kept at this exacting work for seventeen years. On such a régime she built the physical frame that endured till more than ninety years of age, preserving to the end an upright figure and, to some degree, a youthful appearance.

When teaching was prohibited because of failing health and loss of voice, she took up work in a public office in a government department at Washington. She relates with pardonable pride: "I was placed equal with male clerks at \$1400 per year." This appointment however brought criticism and denunciation on the part of those who regarded it as a dangerous precedent. The fear which, later in life, she confessed to have dominated her early years, never made her a coward; but because she conquered fear, it made her the possessor of stupendous courage. So we find her surrounded by jealousy, suspicion and hatred, the male clerks endeavoring to establish a superior record for themselves by insulting remarks, whistles, catcalls, smoking in her face, spitting before her on the floor, by detraction and slander. Miss Barton, however, held her own and advanced in position and salary, good schooling for the future that was drawing towards her.

The outbreak of the war found her in the Department, but soon her desire to serve her country drew her to attempt the unheard-of, attend the wounded on the field. Proprieties were shocked and it took a long struggle to gain her end. She made her debut at Cedar Mountain, late in August, 1862. Upon her sensitive brain the suffering of the wounded seems to have been indelibly stamped, in characters which were never obliterated to the day of her death.

When the last gun was fired at the end of the Civil War, she continued to pursue a line of her work which was as distressing and nerve-racking as her field labors, the search for missing men. Ordered abroad at the end of this task, she was given opportunity for studying the Red Cross organization and, while still in Europe, the Franco Prussian War broke out and she was able to see this organization at work. Once more she was "constrained to heed the compelling cry of humanity" and was again on a battlefield. In the midst of her field work she conceived the idea of introducing the Red Cross Organization in America. She saw the consummation of her ideas in 1881; the Red Cross was organized, herself its president. Although it was not her wish to hold office, she did so because of the insistence of President Garfield. Space forbids us to follow her career through national disaster, the Spanish American War and the adventures of her later life. We come to a place where it is hard not to side with Miss Barton against a reincorporated and reorganized Red Cross Association. This new association has justified itself; it needs no defenders; but one can realize that Miss Barton should feel much as an orphan who is persuaded to accept the protection of the honorable board of directors of the orphanage in the place of parental love and care. She was obliged to tender her resignation and allow the work of expansion and reorganization to proceed, to meekly accept the fact that the work had come to a place where others must take it over and work their will upon it. It was hard to feel that her day was over, that new times were come and, with them, new methods. It is characteristic of Miss Barton's life that she should conquer and even this great act of renunciation was made. She found peace and happiness, with friends to share her home life to the end.

**CONSUMPTION: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.** By John B. Hawes, 2d, M.D. Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Director Tuberculosis Clinic, Assistant Visiting Physician Massachusetts General Hospital, Secretary Massachusetts Tuberculosis Commission. Boston: Small, Maynard and Company.

Although the public has not been left wanting books on the treatment, care and prevention of tuberculosis, there is still much of which